

P.O. Box 74
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September 12, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) 3776 '99 SEP 17 P1:34
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

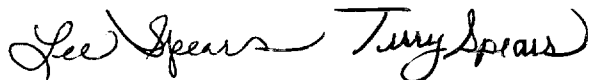
We are writing in regard to Docket Numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; and 97P-0197. We support the ban on forced molting of hens used in egg production.

The FDA has the power to prohibit agricultural practices that are dangerous to human health, and the USDA's own research has shown forced molting makes hens more susceptible to salmonella infection and to laying salmonella-contaminated eggs. Putting bacteria warning labels on egg cartons is not enough.

Starving hens for up to two weeks at a time is also cruelty to animals. It causes suffering and death and adds to the misery of the barbaric conditions already inflicted on laying hens.

The petition submitted to the FDA in April 1998 to ban forced molting should be granted immediately.

Sincerely,



Lee, Terry, Collette, Michael, and Jessica Spears

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C622

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C623
96P-0418/C622

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